

WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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The Passing Show.

The Liberal and Labor parties have entered upon their great vote-catching contest.

The Liberals assert that Laborites have stolen their proposals. The Laborites deny the soft impeachment, and claim that their policy was their own invention.

Says Pope:—
"Who shall decide, when doctors disagree,
And soundest caustics doubt, like you and me?"

Though the two great parties disagree as to who is entitled to the credit of first making certain proposals, both appear to be in entire agreement as to the desirability of the proposals themselves.

Prime Minister Fisher says: "The naval expenditure during the last three years has reached £5,100,000. During the ensuing three years it is intended to lay down one battleship, three destroyers, two submarines, and one supply ship."

Opposition Liberal leader, Mr. Cook, says: "In connection with the matter of defence, one can't help smiling, and I should think Mr. Fisher smiled when he uttered the statement that they proposed offering a further Dreadnought to the fleet of the Empire. After jeering and jibing for three years they end up by imitating our excellent example of four years ago. I hope we shall hear no more of the question of offering Dreadnoughts. I congratulate Mr. Fisher and his party for following so completely in our footsteps."

Cook pretends to be delighted with the way the Labor party is doing the work of the Liberals, but he would rather that he and his party were doing the job and drawing the pay themselves.

Of course no Labor man believes Cook any more than a Liberal believes Fisher. They have a warm hatred for each other, though where the difference exists no man knows.

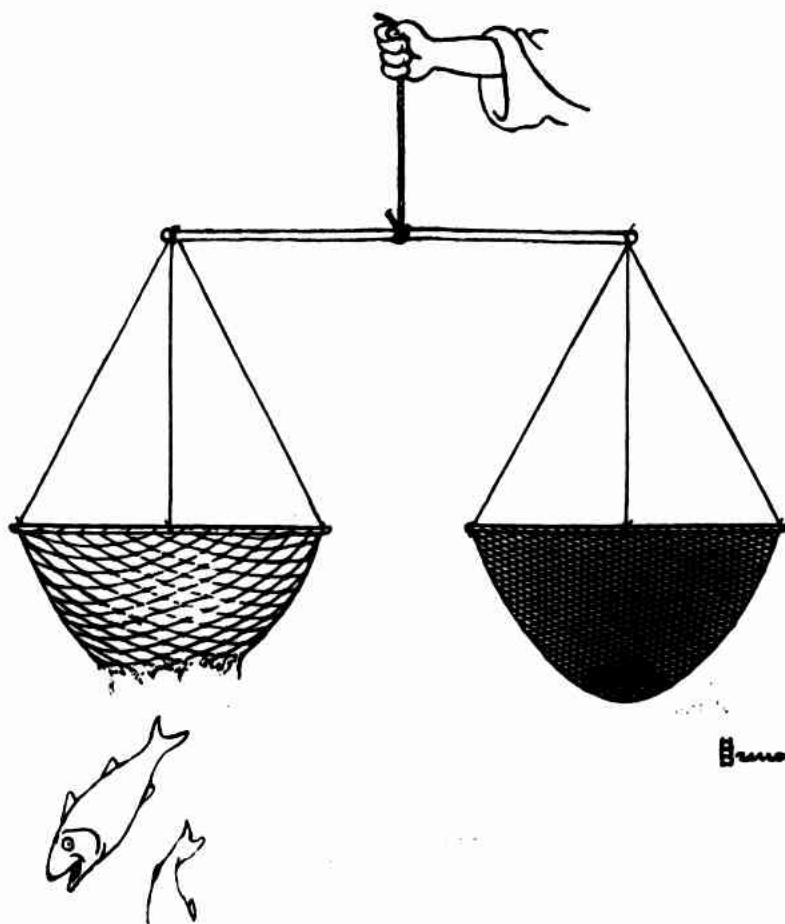
What could be more calculated to gladden the heart of Liberal or Tory than this announcement of Mr. Fisher's? "The Government will co-operate with the other Dominions and the United Kingdom for the protection of British interests in the Pacific."

Mr. Fisher's statement should soothe the anger and soften the hostility of every Liberal voter who is not himself a candidate for Parliament, or a hunter for office. As for the softies of his own party, nothing will ever convince them that "British interests in the Pacific" does not mean the interests of the working man in Australia.

To the Liberals who howl at the Labor Government Senator Pearce makes an appeal: "The officers of the Australian navy are included in the Imperial Navy list, and our Commissioners are recognised in the old country. We have the same flag as the British navy, and the domestic arrangements that have been entered into with the Imperial Government have nothing to do with outside nations. Our navy forms one part of the great Imperial Fleet. All the details were fixed up in 1911, and the agreement meets all contingencies. I cannot see any difficulties that have to be overcome."

In face of what Mr. Fisher says about protecting "British interests in the Pacific," and Senator Pearce's fervid love for the dear old flag of Great Britain, his assurance that "Our navy forms one part of the great Imperial Fleet," and that "All the details were fixed up in 1911," how can any loyal and patriotic Liberal

Capitalist Justice.



The Small Fish are Caught but the Big ones Escape.

find grounds for any opposition to the Labor party.

To the working man Senator Pearce says: "It is the duty of every one to train himself, and the duty of every Government to train every man to defend his country. Every Australian should be prepared to lay down his life for a White Australia."

Where is the working man who would vote Liberal after reading that noble utterance of the great statesman Senator Pearce? What a deep-laid scheme he and Prime Minister Fisher fixed up in 1911 when they made the Australian navy a part of the great Imperial Fleet! The crafty naval authorities of Britain planned to make the Australian fleet a part of the Imperial Fleet so that the Australian navy should be used to protect the British fleet, but our diplomats were too cunning for that. They made the Australian fleet a part of the Imperial Fleet so that the whole could be commanded by Senator Pearce to help to defend a "White Australia." And as every working man in Australia is allowed to live in the country and call it "his country," so long as he pays his rent regularly, why it is the duty of every man to train to defend his rights, and it is the duty of the Labor Government to save the Liberals the trouble of seeing that he does it properly.

In an article on "Domain Dossets," Sydney "Sun" some time ago illustrated how much a White Australia means to the working man. Scores of working men had been caught by the police in the act of sleeping in the Domain, and the "Sun" said: "The fact that so many young, strong, able-bodied men have to doss in the open does call for notice. They cannot have homes, nor can they have money. It is a notable fact that a great many of the young fellows spoken to this morning were immigrants."

"They cannot have homes!" No, because the landlords have them. "Nor can they have money." No, they probably paid rent as long as they could, and when they could no longer pay rent, they were turned out to sleep in the Do-

main. No! The police do not allow that. They had been told in the old country that this was a fine free country reserved for the white race, and when they got here they found that the landlords were free to stop them from sleeping indoors, while the police were free to prevent them from sleeping in the open air in the parks.

Rumour has it that the British Admiralty has weathered W. S. Gilbert's satire, and that the British Admiral still goes to sea accompanied by his "sisters, and his cousins, and his aunts." It is said that Admiral King-Hall recently sailed from Hobart for Melbourne in the Encounter, accompanied by 12 of his female relatives with their maids. His male staff, and personal attendants, his two carriages, two carriage horses, notions of furniture, and other fixings were also aboard. The old Encounter looked as if she was moving an exiled Sultan.

In starting to build a navy Labor Ministers have struck trouble with the young Australian cadet. He broke leave in force and deserted from the Encounter in Tasmania, and when arrested and taken aboard, coolly said he would prefer to be locked up to doing the work allotted him. As the vessel was very short handed this was impracticable and young Aus. was let off with a caution. He worked the vessel to Melbourne, but though she is capable of steaming over 20 knots, she only did between seven and eight owing to the "ca' canny" tactics of the boys.

On the Melbourne there were two mutinies on the way from England, and the leaders arrived under arrest. One received 12 months' imprisonment, and others various sentences from 90 days to six months. She is said to be an awful boat to work in, and it is no wonder that the men revolted. The "leniency" of the men's sentences is explained from the fact that the British navy is very short of men, and the authorities cannot afford very lengthy sentences. The British naval authorities want 10,000 men for the navy, and there are six large warships at Portsmouth waiting for crews,

while the Dreadnoughts afloat have the lowest possible complement they can sail with. "A life on the ocean wave" in a warship is losing its charms for the worker.

Push "The International Socialist." Get subscribers.

The New Zealand Employers' Federation is circularising employers regarding the unity of employees. The circular says, "Consideration of the scheme shows it to be intensely socialistic in character. It definitely aims at the destruction of the employing class in New Zealand." To counteract its influence the employers are urged to contribute to a fund to be used against what is called the "aggression and forces arrayed against them." The employers are quite definite in their recognition of the class struggle and have adopted the principle of "one big union" in its entirety.

A Press cable says that two Sofia regiments were decimated by the Turks on March 29. They were formed from youths recruited from the "best" families, and placed in a position where they were not likely to be attacked. The Turks, seeing their inexperience, outflanked and killed most of them. The par concludes significantly: "The incident has caused a revulsion among the prominent people in favour of peace." The "prominent people" would soon lose their taste for war if their own sons had always to fill the ranks. It is only the fool worker who allows his son to be trained to stand up and be shot at without flinching.

A Sydney establishment has been showing some beautiful 80 guinea frocks in its windows, and hundreds of working class women have looked at them and wondered whom they were for. We are able to settle that point. They are not for them nor for any women of their class. They are for women who ride in motor cars with dogs; women who attend racecourses and have their dresses described by the capitalist Press, while their sisters of the working class scrub their linen, mind their children, and set their house in order for their return in the evening. The beautiful frocks are for the women of the "upper" class who help their husbands to keep working women down in the "lower" class.

Every new subscriber you get for "The International Socialist" is a blow struck at Capitalism.

During the early hours of the Ferry Strike it was seen that directly the workers ceased work the boats stopped running, and thousands of people stood on the company's wharves wondering when the Lord Mayor and other "volunteers" were coming to fire up the boats and ferry the passengers across. The latter never doubted that the Lord Mayor would bring his shovel to the rescue, especially as he himself lived on the North side of the harbour where the people were stranded. But as the hours and days wore on, and Alderman Cocks did not come, "hope deferred," which "maketh the heart grow sick," made them cast round for reason. Why did the Lord Mayor not call for volunteers to go scabbing with him as he did in the Gas Strike? Was it because he had no shares in the Ferry Company? Not likely! Was it because he and the University cubs and city parasites had enough work during their Gas Strike adventure to last them for the rest of their days? Perhaps. But whatever the real reason was that caused the Lord Mayor to stay away, it is certain that he blundered badly when he took his coat off to make gas. Now people will always look for him to do similar things. They will say, "If he could work four hours on that occasion, why not on this? Why cannot he always work like the rest of us?" When they think that way they will be almost ready to join us who aim to make him work.

Hand this paper to a friend.

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The capital form of property is the truly typical form of property in modern society. In no other society has it existed as a universal or dominant fact.—*Leifur*.

Australian Conditions.

A Canadian View.

"Cotton's Weekly" describes the condition of Australia under Labor Government.

Socialist papers overseas are making good use of the facts supplied by "The International Socialist" as to conditions here. This fact alone should be sufficient to demonstrate the value of the paper as a weapon of offence and defence against the lying papers of the exploiters. Our paper is the most widely quoted of all Australia's papers, and we are believed where the Capitalist papers are turned down without a hearing. Those who are lukewarm in support of the paper should read the following extract from "Cotton's Weekly," which they will recognise is based on facts supplied by us. "Cotton's" is a leading Canadian Socialist paper with a circulation of over 30,000, and in opposition to those who clamour for the adoption of Australian legislation and method in Canada is doing good work in letting the workers know how things are here. What "Cotton's" is doing in Canada other papers are doing in other countries, and the international solidarity of the workers is being built upon the solid rock of reliable information. The latest of such journals to reach us is one from China, "The China Socialist Review," printed in Chinese and Esperanto, and written by revolutionary Socialists of the new republic. The recent revolution, and the subsequent election of over 20 Socialists to parliament, together with the fine little "Review," indicate that the Chinese worker is awake and up and doing. If Australians would but rally round their fighting "International," as the Canadians and Chinese are doing round theirs, we could double our size and influence in the next few months. Let us all get to work, but first read the following from "Cotton's Weekly."

AUSTRALIA.

"In Australia there is a Labor Government which has passed many reform laws. But capitalism has its grip on the country and the workers suffer. In the coming elections the Liberals have put forth a platform as radical as the Labor party platform. They are willing to grant like reforms. The Labor party holds power only by bowing to the will of the capitalist class.

In Australia the Labor party maintains a compulsory arbitration system. In Sydney 57 slaughtermen's assistants have been fined from 15d. to 50d. for going on strike in opposition to the decision of the Wages Board. To show how reactionary this is, we need only point out that the sly Canadian Lemieux Act does not demand compulsory obedience to the arbitration award. After the award the parties can follow it or not in Canada. The British exploiters would like to have a Lemieux Act in England, but Sir George Asquith has told them that owing to the revolutionary temper of the workers, the act with its 30 days' notice of a strike would not be workable. From these facts it can readily be seen how reactionary the so-called advanced Australian Government is.

Australia has a compulsory military service. School boys are forced to drill or they are flogged and are now going to be detained in the military barracks until their drill is done. Anyone who knows what military barracks are like will know what disastrous results to school boy morals will result from being incarcerated in the moral pest places. A military caste is being created and snobbish officer butcher trainers are parading the cities in the usual swashbuckler style.

This is the work of the Labor Government.

At Wollongong, New South Wales, a free speech fight is on in which policemen pull Socialist speakers off the box and the prisoners are haled to court for "creating a nuisance."

In the State of New South Wales, are 12,000 coal miners. They want an eight hour day. A Labor Government was in power, yet it did nothing. The outcry of labor rose louder and louder, till the Government was forced to pass the eight hour day in the lower house. It was thrown out by the upper house. Of the four Labor members chosen by the Labor Government to fill vacancies in the upper house not one defended the Eight Hour Bill. The whole four of them absented themselves while the bill was up for slaughter."

"Cotton's" has exposed the banking graft of Canada. In Australia, the banks are just as rapacious. The Labor Government proposed the establishment of a Commonwealth Bank. With a Commonwealth Bank run by the Government it was considered that competition with the private banks could be carried on and drive them out of business. Then the State-owned bank controlling credit could be used to beat down the trusts and establish publicly owned utilities to be run for use and not for profit. The Government named an obscure financial hack named Miller as "Governor" of the national bank at a salary of 20,000d. a year. After being chosen, Miller declared, "I intend to make the national owned bank a strength to other banks." A few weeks later Miller published a statement of the operation of the nationally owned bank, showing it was lending money to the private banks. When questioned on these transactions, Miller haughtily declined to answer, saying the bank was to be free from political influence. Thus the national bank lends to the private banks and the private banks lend to the trusts to help them extend their operations, and the national bank, instead of fighting the trusts for the benefit of the people, is hand and glove with the trusts against the people.

Far-off hills look green, and far-off governments are "paradises" for the workers if we are green enough to believe the capitalist Press."

A "Bulletin" Writer Backs British Tory Agitator "Bobs."

"O.K." writes in "The Bulletin," 6/3 13.—The Commonwealth's infant military system has already served to point a moral for the opponents of compulsory military service in Britain. Touching the suggestion that a compulsory force would be employed to repress strikes, the veteran "Bobs" remarks that if a Labor Government in Australia did not fear this the wage earners of Britain need not be alarmed. He might have added the argument whereas a voluntary army is something of a weapon in the hands of Toryism, compulsory service would make it more of an instrument of defence for the workers against tyrannical repression of labor uprisings. Why, it was even thought advisable to disarm and disband one or two companies of voluntary troops at the time of the big strike a year ago. They were suspected of an earnest desire to join the strikers."

It is curious to note how "Bulletin" writers disregard the fact that "Bobs" is the President of the National Service League, which is about as cunning a collection of Tories as was ever got together to make a raid on the Briton's liberties. Also that it is the Tories only in Britain who are advocating and praising the Australian Conscription Act, the British Labor Party is opposed to it. The so-called Labor Party of Australia has done the British Tory's work here, and has hence proved itself to be a bogus Labor Party. The object of its leaders are the same as those of "Bobs" and the Tory National Service League. As to the argument that a conscript army will be more of a defence for the workers against tyrannical repression of labor uprisings, the Tories of Britain know better. They have seen how it works in Continental countries, and are satisfied that it will suit their purpose. The Australian Tories who even thought it "advisable to disarm and disband" companies of volunteers suspected of labor sympathies, would not be likely to leave arms in the hands of conscripts who were dangerous to them and their interests. They would either disarm them or order them to mobilise as conscript soldiers. If they refused to mobilise as soldiers, and stuck out as strikers, they could be tried by court martial and shot in the usual way. Workers who support Tory Conscription, under the impression that it is going to help them, imagine that the Tory is a

After the Railway Strike.

Some Amusing Views.

What the Strike-breakers and other Unconscious Humourists said.

"It is not unlikely that within the next few days summonses will be served on the railway men who went out on strike. The matter is now in the hands of the Crown Solicitor."—"S.M. Herald."

Mr. J. Meek, vice-president of the Employers' Federation, said, "That the employees generally were now waiting, before making any further move, to see whether the Government would put into operation the penal revisions of the law aimed against those who engaged in or fomented strikes."

The Industrial Commissioner, Mr. J. B. Holme wrote to the secretary of the Southern Colliery Proprietors' Association on April 8th, asking that "proof of evidence of acts of strike committed on or about the 17th of March, and thereafter by the employers of the various collieries in the southern colliery district" be forwarded to the department with a view to prosecution.

"A good deal has been said about wanting a 'strong man' in connection with this industrial trouble, and suggestions have been made that if Mr. Wade were Premier, that 'strong man' would be there. But we cannot lose sight of the big northern coal strike. When a 'strong man' was needed, it took a long time before the penal clauses of the Industrial Disputes Act were put into force."

MR. E. J. KAVANAGH, M.L.C.

Secretary of the Labor Council.

The strike was one that threatened serious consequences, not only to the Labor movement, but to the whole of the country. Whilst there may have been a number of unions opposed to the extension, it would have been a very difficult matter for the executive to have prevented it once the men took the bit into their mouths." Mr. C. Fox, President of the Labor Council.

"During Tuesday, April 8th, a guard was despatched to North Strathfield to bring back a load of coal. When he reached the spot he designated the coal 'black' and would not bring it into Sydney. He was suspended. His dereliction of duty is regarded in a very serious light."—"S.M. Herald."

At a meeting of the executive of the Railway Workers and General Laborers' Association it was decided: "That we are of opinion that the present trouble should not have arisen in view of the fact that 26 boards have been constituted by the Court, covering every man in the employ of the Chief Railway Commissioner."

"You may take the the best laws in the world, but laws in cold type are of no value. You must have breathed into them the breath of life by the firm administration of the Government. . . . So far from maintaining the cause of the people and doing justice to all classes, Ministers have shown a lamentable want of courage and lack of the sense of duty, the inevitable effect being that these misguided men made further demands over and above what is conferred by the machinery of the Court. We have the spirit of unrest generated by this spineless conduct, and spreading like wildfire through the industrial community."—G. G. Wade, ex-Premier, and leader of the Opposition in New South Wales State Legislative Assembly.

"The boasted champion of law and order (Mr. Wade) who now poses as a stern censor of a Government that is recreant to its duty in carrying out prosecutions, was himself recreant in 201 out of 205 strike breaches of the law that took place by unions under his act." Mr. Carmichael, Minister for Labor and Industry in N.S.W. Government.

The Minister for Works (Mr. Griffiths) declared that it would no longer be possible logically to propose nationalisation as a cure for industrial trouble.

"I am very pleased," Mr. Griffiths said, "with the courageous action of the Labor Council of New South Wales in vindicating the principle of arbitration, and inducing a lot of industrial outlaws who had broken the rules of even their own organisation to adopt a reasonable course. It is a very good thing the strike is over, but it would have been a very much better thing if it had never occurred.

fool, and that he is going to train the boys to become a danger to himself. He knows better. He knows the power of early training in militarism and is slowly perfecting a machine which will terrorise and enslave the workers.

"This incident has given the anti-Labor crowd the very cry they have been looking for. We can no longer logically propose the nationalisation of industry as a cure for industrial trouble. The workmen employed in great industrial undertakings by the State are ready, as the result of a quarrel between two industrial unions, to throw the railway system of the State idle.

"These 'red-raggers' who brought this thing about can no longer claim to be Socialists. The Socialistic ideal is based upon the omnipotence of the State, and these men have deliberately struck a staggering blow at the principle of State industrialism."

The strike has left a savage feeling in anti-Labor circles, and there is a vigorous demand for prosecutions. In the following extract Mr. Carmichael, Minister for Labor and Industry, shows how such a demand was crushed on a previous occasion. As illustrating the power of united labor, the extract is luminous.

A strike occurred during Mr. Wade's Premiership at Lymington colliery, and "Mr. Wade applied to the Court for leave to prosecute the men. Leave was obtained from the Court, and the prosecutions were to go forward. The Colliery Employers' Federation passed a resolution that if these miners were prosecuted the federation would be prepared to cease work. Two days after the publication of this resolution the prosecutions were withdrawn by the Crown without any explanation. It may have been a desire to preserve the public peace. I am willing to believe it was, but if that were so, surely similar reasons might be allowed to actuate his political opponents with out Mr. Wade bursting forth. When he imagines prosecutions have been withdrawn, into vilification and abuse.

"Well, let me tell you that during the whole of the time that I had anything to do with the working men of Lithgow we never had a strike at all, and I left them all with better pay and conditions than they have ever had since." Joseph Cook, Leader of Federal Parliamentary Opposition.

Occurring, as they do, at intervals and affecting, as they do, only sections at a time, the public is apt to overlook the seriousness of these strikes, as it would not do were the loss concentrated upon one great catastrophe. If that sum of money had been lost through an earthquake or a conflagration or a flood, its gravity would be realised, the whole country would be surging. It is the gradual nature of the disease which hurls the public sense. It is, therefore, a matter for regret that the whole £8,000,000 was not thrown away in one big dramatic strike. Its utter foolishness would then have been made apparent, and public opinion would have demanded that such hideous blunders should immediately cease. "The Sun."

ALFONSO AND THE ACTRESS.

Royal Gift Scorned.

In returning from his latest visit to Dr. Moore, the Bordeaux throat specialist, King Alfonso broke his motor journey for the night at Pau, South France, on his way to San Sebastian. In the evening he had a box with two friends at the opera to hear "Kreutzer Sonata."

Having been duly feted by management and audience, his Majesty, as he is accustomed to doing, sent his aide-de-camp with a bouquet for the leading lady. It was returned without explanation. The King and his friends anxiously scanned their programmes.

"Of course," broke in Alfonso, "she's singing under an assumed name. Go and find out her real name."

Presently the aide-de-camp returned, nervous.

"What is it?" demanded the King impatiently.

The aide-de-camp began a long preamble.

"Tell me the lady's name, sir, at once."

"Senora Paz Ferrer, your Majesty."

"Is that all?" queried the King, sarcastically.

Ferrer's daughter, who made such valiant efforts to save her father from execution in 1909, afterwards took to the stage.

During 1910-13 the Federal Labor Government will have spent £5,400,933 on defence. Which works out at £150,226 per month; £1,932 7s 1d per day; and £68 10s 1d per hour. At an average cost of £300 this would have built 18,003 homes, calculating on an average family of five would have given shelter to 90,015 persons.—F.J.R.

When you have finished with this paper, pass it on to a friend.

Maniacs I have Met.

The Political Opportunist.

The politician tunes his policy to the popular fancy.

(By Ajax.)

The political opportunist is a species of peculiar human that flourishes in several countries where public prejudice is strong and intelligence low, particularly does this remark apply to the Southern hemisphere. Like the poor the politician is always with us, howbeit he is a parasite fungus that of recent years attached himself to the social tree.

English history tells how the barons forced King John to sign the Magna Charter. This curtailing of the royal prerogative was the seed that Parliament sprang from. Gradually the aristocracy wrested the power from the King. The successful revolution of the trading class under Cromwell, against the peers, ushered in Parliament. Plutocracy found that to function the complex class state, it was necessary to admit as ministers a few of the people.

As time went on Parliament became more democratic. With the extension of the franchise, pay for ministers, and other changes, the Commons or second chamber, degenerated into a happy meeting ground for any unscrupulous person. Scientists, philosophers, and honest men were not wanted. Men like Bradlaugh became scarce, as scarce as lawyers in Heaven. The candidate possessing personal powers and wealth, provided he has a face of brass, and can perform the mental gymnastics, stands the best chance.

It is not a question of mental ability, or merit. He is often ignorant, selfish, and egotistic. Frequently he is a monomaniac, and really imagines that he will be able to perform wonders, provided he is given the power.

Votes only are counted so the politician tunes his policy to the popular fancy. In the aristocratic part of his electorate he is a red hot Tory, in the slums he is a semi-socialist. At all times he endeavours to pose as a political Messiah. Before the election he is plausible, polite, and deeply sympathetic with the electors, for the sake of the perks he is going to get out of them after it is over. Thus early he starts out on a campaign of abuse, lies and promises, an experience that will fit him if he gets in. He really represents himself, it is difficult to see how he can represent anyone else, especially when we consider the clashing interests, narrow cliques and conglomeration of different people, of which his electorate is composed.

The idea of political representation is really a survival in a modified form of the old superstition that a king can understand the wants and govern for the benefit of his numerous subjects.

Our modern politician when elected, takes an oath to uphold the constitution. This oath clashes with his election promises. He swears to govern the people in the interests of plutocracy, that is to perpetuate a system of authority, privilege, and exploitation. His party and personal interests are now opposed to his constituents. It is obviously his policy to keep them in ignorance and encourage them to blindly follow and rely on him.

A popular delusion is that Parliament is very susceptible to public opinion. The individual on the hustings is but the party is not. Indeed, should a revolt, strike, or agitation occur it may be necessary for the Government, irrespective of their policy, to resurrect barbaric laws and enforce them by violence in the face of so-called public opinion, even if the result should force them out of office. Wade had to force this position in the coal strike. McGowan stands in a similar position over the compulsory training. These are the risks the parties have to take. Although excuses and desperate efforts are made to cloak the issue, the economic interests of the ruling class are the controlling factor. Here we have the key to all the moves on the political chessboard.

Even the so-called palliative legislation, such as the eight hour day, factory legislation, etc., while benefiting sections of the working class at the expense of the rest, was only passed when it suited the interests of the rich. In England, for generations the electors have been gulled with fiscal issues, revision and reform (deform), yet only recently the Welsh Christ Lloyd George was forced to admit that the position of the proletariat was worse than at any period during English history. The Whig and Tory parties, representing the manufacturers and landlords, have technical differences, but they are one (Plute's party) as opposed to the people in the

historic class war. He represents so-called Law and Order, that's way politics are full of muddle and chaos.

A similar position exists in nearly every civilized country. Sometimes other parties, representing clerical, military, or financial interests, intervene, and make confusion worse confounded.

In New South Wales we find Liberal and Labor parties both so alike that they charge each other with stealing the other fellow's policy, the difference between Tweedledum and Tweedledee. Between the crooked coercionist and the crooked conscriptionist, there is no difference, so far as the people are concerned.

The politician raises bogeys and tries to make mountains out of mole hills. What with State frights, Federal wrongs, taxing the idle rich (who never pay taxes), regulating wages by law (another absurdity), a fair rents bill (an economic impossibility), and what not, the elector is kept mentally in the mud. We are so democratic and advanced in our political ideas that we have a farcical referendum, but the politicians will not have a referendum on anything of vital interest to the people (the Conscription Act for instance).

Notice how futile is the politicians' attempts to deal with industrial problems. Bills are passed and have to be repealed, or altered, to keep pace with economic changes. The marriage laws are utterly out of date. These laws being subordinated to property right are very gingerly and tardily altered. Anyway the relation between the sexes is hopelessly beyond the politician's control; natural law being superior to positive law renders the legislator helpless.

International commerce and finance cannot be locally controlled. There again the politician is all at sea, he can at best only tinker with these problems.

In every department we see the incompetence and incompetence of Cabinets. This can hardly be otherwise when we consider their method. The scientific method of deciding by reason a social problem is not to be used. The process is to vote. Thus in N.S.W. the Labor party polled about a quarter of the possible votes. Even if their electors blindly endorse all their bills they still are a party in a minority in the community. They are now in a position that if they can rush through a bill by a majority of one, no matter how absurd the measure, and irrespective of how the majority was obtained, it becomes law, and the other three-quarters of the population are expected to obey and venerate this decree (which exists on paper) under pain of punishment. Moses presents his tablets to the idolatrous Israelites really is not in it with our modern McGowanites.

This is the more absurd as a small and determined minority can frequently successfully defy Parliament.

Philosophically, it has never yet been proved that you can make laws to suit others.

We need not dwell upon the seamy side of politics, how parties and politicians are bought, how policies give way to expediency. The bribery, corruption, shuffling, compromising, and pollution of public and private life, politics imply.

The lengthy delays, cumbersome procedure, and costliness of Parliaments, not to mention other objectionable features raises the question, whether Parliament is past mending and wants ending?

With the politicians' relations to the electors we shall deal with in our next essay, entitled, "The Voter."

We have already observed that the politician's method is stupid, his selection questionable, his capabilities small, and his legislation mostly futile, and his policy self and pelf.

The question arises, is an individual who generally cannot control himself, to be trusted with the control of others? Is he insane, or is he a cunning charlatan?

Probably the politician does himself more harm than good. He is generally obsessed by the idea of making hay while the political sun shines; that is get rich quick. His billet is insecure. The ceaseless plotting and struggle of how to keep in when in office, and how to get in when out. The numerous worries and haggling, the lying, hypocrisy and mental prostitution involved. The high and artificial living, and the numerous degenerating influences generally render him unfit for anything else, and frequently he is forced to leave the legislature, mentally, morally, and physically degenerated beyond all hope of being anything else but a waster. Such are your idols. O Israel!

During 1912-13 the Federal Labour Government proposes to spend on defence £2,319,257. In other words, Labor has to shovel into the maws of this insatiable monster every month this year, £195,771 5s.; every day £6430 16s 9d; every hour £267 19s. Reckoning on a

Economic Warfare.

It is Interests that Govern.

The Marxian Key of History. Its application to present and future conditions. (Continued.)

It was largely owing to the failure of the craft form of organisation as a fighting weapon that unionists turned to Parliamentary organisation and politicians for guidance, and it took years of educational effort to induce craft unionists to broaden their view sufficiently to vote in anything like a solid body. A bristling hedge of conservatism, craft patriotism, and paternalism guarded the old organisations against criticism, and the union officials dreading the result of a transformation which threatened to place leadership in other hands and affect their salaries and positions, vehemently denounced any demands for change. It was only the working of actual facts upon the minds of the masses of the union members that enabled the Labor politicians to effect the partial change they did.

The political revolt, as demonstrated in the Labor movement, has been disappointing in result, and the political wranglers are beginning to wear out the patience of the proletariat. A few great figures have emerged from the ranks of the political fighters, and these are playing their own hand, but the general condition of the masses does not seem to be improved thereby. By these political leaders the importance of Parliamentary action has been over-emphasised at the expense and neglect of industrial organisation. Now, it is proposed that the workers should abandon Parliamentary action and revert once more to industrial organisation. The proposal is to go back to where we were 20 years ago, but a study of economic evolution, and the history of economic warfare, leads to seeing the impossibility of doing that. The Australian Labor Party is where it is because economic forces have brought it into existence, and the discussion of legislation in favour of the working-man that is everywhere more manifested than formerly is due to the same cause.

The Parliamentary battles between the free-trade squatters and importers of Australia, and their opponents, the protectionist manufacturers, have been similar to those between the Tories and Whigs of Britain. Their economic evolution has been along identical lines. The rivalry between the Tories, agrarian in their interests, and the Whigs, with manufacturing interests, made a third party possible, and called forth the Labor party. The Tories of Britain legislated sometimes in favour of the worker to cripple the Whigs, careful all the time not to help the farmers, while the Whigs, to intrench themselves in power, were friendly, and made concessions to the voting working class, so long as they remained safely within the limits of the existing social order. Our own dominant parties fought each other in the same way, and the result—a Labor party—is the same.

While both Britain and Australia have Labor parties, both have also an impatient section who decry parliamentary action because of the failure of such parties. But the goal of the non-political section is the same as that of the revolutionary Socialist, namely, the emancipation of the working class and the overthrow of capitalism, and though there may be temporary antagonism between them, and differences over tactical points, the very contemplation of the common object tends to bring the proletariat more closely together and to abolish dividing lines.

Between those who over-emphasise political action and those who over-emphasise industrial unionism there is a wide difference, yet both must make their appeal to the craft unionist and the proletariat. Both must insist upon a recognition of the class war, which Marxian Socialists have proclaimed so long. The gathering together of a band of small bourgeois and craft unionists into a political party with an abiding faith in the State as an employer, and with a set of dulcet expressions embracing "Municipal Socialism" and "State Socialism," has been found out.

The sweating exposed in Government industries, the failure of the government to be even a "good employer," as conspicuous in Europe as in Australia, has given the advocates of nationalisation pause. In the French Railroad Strike of 1910, the Government did not hesitate to

call the striking workmen to the colors as reservists, and to exercise its military powers in support of its tyrannical behavior as an employer. In Australia "State Socialists" have adopted Conscription, under which system the action of the French Government may easily be imitated in future strikes. Under such circumstances it is not surprising that nationalisation of industry and Municipal and State ownership campaigns cease to evoke the enthusiasm they once did.

The Industrial Unionist, who is non-political, urges that the conflict should be converted into a class war, beginning at the point of production. He forms the ever widening development of that conflict until overwhelming forces are brought into the field. He says: "We must prepare for action; while we shall still find possibly that conciliation has its uses for us, just as diplomacy has for a nation, yet, behind that diplomacy there must be force!—force strongly organised, conscious of its mission and its strength—force so applied and driven home by constantly increasing pressure that the masters will have to give to force what they deny to justice. We must organise in such a way that no matter how few men are involved at first, if a principle is at stake we must make the area of the struggle rapidly larger and larger, until such vast interests are involved as to compel a settlement in our favor." W. T. Hay, "Industrial Syndicalist, Vol. 1, No. 5).

Wherever we turn in the examination of Industrial Unionism we find a great field of vision, and an implied action on the part of the proletariat, which gives it great promise of the future, and transforms it from a mere machine for raising wages and diminishing hours of labor into a means of human emancipation. To the small bourgeois, the craft unionist, and the State Socialist, this outlook seems impossible. To them the wage system and employment are permanent industrial relations, and within their limits the proletarian must bargain to gain a little here and forego a little there, so that the representative leader becomes the arbitrator or "business agent" of the union, the bucksterer in general for the members of the craft. Internationalism, anti-militarism, and an ever widening confederation of labor are as yet too broad in conception for their limited powers, yet they have to be enlightened and dragged to the front.

To the International Socialist it seems as if both the State Socialist and the non-political Industrial Unionist fail to fully understand what parliamentary government is. Politics is generally defined as the science of government, but an examination of this so-called science reveals the fact that it has been, and is no more than a battle of interests for the power to rule. Where a privileged class is entrenched in power, or its members are so organised that they control the government, politics becomes a game in which the players play for immense stakes, such as offices, tariffs, etc. Under these circumstances we find that the game proceeds according to certain well defined regulations under which some very able individuals are produced who cultivate the arts of political controversy and platform oratory to a considerable degree of perfection. These individuals represent rival interests, and get the reins of government in turns just as they are able to work upon the minds and feelings of the mass of fickle voters. In Parliament the environment is a sordid one, so much so, that after seeing numberless well-meaning and able men go in spotless and come out besmirched, many have concluded that the environment is too much for human nature, and that it is useless to attempt anything useful in that direction.

But Parliament is a place where economic warfare is waged. As interests evolve outside, representation changes inside, and the human outlook changes with it. This being so, there is some reason for believing that as the workers increase their knowledge of economics, Parliament will be compelled to devote more and more attention to their interests. Though capitalists at present control Parliament, as they control industry, there is no certainty that they will always do so. It does not look more hopeless at present to look forward to a time when the capitalists will no longer control Parliament than it does to look forward to a time when they will no longer control industry. We, who look forward to the day when the proletariat will be freed from Capitalist domination, must believe that in that day they will dominate all institutions industrial, political, religious, and educational.

A few years ago nothing looked more unlikely that the workers would ever control the Press, but the growing number of Socialist papers all over the world, and the demand for Socialist literature, brings daily nearer the probability

cost of £300 a piece this sum would have builded 7830 homes, which, with an average of five per family, would have given shelter 39,150 people.

"Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth."

Crawling, sweating, and slaving,
Forty-eight hours a week,
Muscles all straining, still uncomplaining,
Sure the earth shall belong to the meek.

It's a fable that's old, but still often told,
And believed by the gullible mob,
But the reason is plain, 'tis a link in the chain
That binds us so tight to the job.

What a joke it must seem to the parson so fat
As he preaches such junk on a Sunday!
He prays for the meek as he send round the hat,
And pockets a bribe on the Monday.

What a fine yarn to spin to the suckers and slaves!
'Tis a chestnut as old as the hills;
We are driven by want to seek early graves,
And we are worked at the pace that kills.

Will we ever grow wise, and be done with such trash?
Or let this go on through the ages,
For the promise of bliss in a land in the skies
We are giving up most of our wages.

We'll "inherit the earth," it is ours by right,
But not through such dope and such bluff,
There is only one way, and that's by a fight,
Let's commence, for it's stood long enough.
J.F.D.

SOCIALISM v. SINGLE TAX. MR. HUIE REPLIES.

I did not profess on a former occasion to deal with all the fallacies which Mr. Wilson hugs close to his bosom, hence he is not satisfied. Perhaps you will be so good as to allow me some more space. Mr. Wilson contends "that the single tax would not alter our relationship to the land or solve the problem of unemployment." I will deal with the former assertion first. At the present time about 15 per cent of the people of N.S.W. own all the alienated land. Eighty-five per cent have to pay land rent for permission to occupy land that is equally the birth right of every person in the community. Herbert Spencer puts it thus: "The world is God's bequest to mankind. All men are joint heirs to it, you among the number." Mill, in dealing with the same point says: "No man made the land. It is the original inheritance of the whole species." Probably all your readers will agree with me to that extent. Now, the essential difference between the present system consists in the payment of rent for permission to occupy and use land to a few individuals, or, to put it in another way, the private appropriation of publicly made land values. Thus, if one man owns land, which has an unimproved value, upon which one hundred men live and work, they must pay him that unimproved value, or land rent. I hope that is clear. The landowner in such circumstances gets rich without working. The single tax is a proposal to assess that land value, which the landowner now takes, and to appropriate it for the use of the whole community. The landowner who fortunately got it will get it no longer. Further, while the landowner has been appropriating land values, the Government has been imposing taxes, upon the necessities of life and the machinery of production. Thus the 100 men retain for their own use all the taxes now paid, and sack all the taxgatherers, who are all non-producers. The land rent which hitherto has gone to the landlord is now retained by them. It becomes their contribution to defray the cost of their own public necessities. Now, if that is not clear, I will have to do what they say is necessary to enable a Scotchman to see a joke—perform a surgical operation. But let us proceed, when the rent of land is paid to the whole people and used by them, there will be no profit in owning land. Land speculation won't pay. Just as a man won't work himself to keep a fat horse in the stable when he has no work for him—the horse to do, and no prospect of any, so no man will own land which, so to speak, "is eating its head off." Thus all idle land which has a value will be open to use. It is not open to-day, because a profit has to be paid to a landowner. The birds recognise no landowner—they help themselves. The difference between man and the birds is that man now recognises the landowner, and man has the power of making two blades of grass grow where one grew before. When he no longer recognises the landowner, and has free access to the land, just as the birds, he can freely help himself. Under such conditions unemployment cannot arise. There can be no problem of unemployment when all men are equally free to help themselves from Nature's storehouse.

ity that such control will at no distant date be accomplished. The increase of class consciousness and solidarity brings the probability of the general strike every day nearer, and that involves the general boycott and sabotage.

(To be continued.)

When you have read this paper hand it to a friend.

A.S.P. News & Notes.

National Executive.

Branches can be represented by proxy delegates at the forthcoming annual Conference. The names of delegates should be forwarded at once to the undersigned.

The Annual Conference will take place on Monday, May 19. Further Business for Conference will be received up to Saturday, April 19.

At the last meeting of the A. Council held Sat. April 12, Nominations for N.S.W. state elections were received, J. W. Roche, King electorate, F.J. Riley, Darling Harbour, Cecil Whitmore, Belmore.

Branches are requested to forward names of selected Candidates for the forthcoming Federal and State elections to the Administrative Council as soon as possible.

H. L. DENFORD,
8 Stephen's Buildings, Windmill-St.
Millers Point, Sydney

Melbourne Branch.

Since last branch report was forwarded two well attended meetings have been held at party headquarters, the first being addressed by Comrade Speers, who gave a clear outline of convict days in Australia. Dr. Bottomley was the speaker on the following Sunday, when he dealt with the Red Plague, many rare and valuable slides being exhibited.

The out-door meetings continue to be held, and it is with pleasure I record that at all of them, there has been increased attendances, and increased sales of literature.

At last general meeting of the party three new converts to Socialism were enrolled, while a one-time member, who resigned some months ago, rejoined.

The Sunday school under the control of Comrade Mrs. McDonald, continues to be well attended, and parents whose children have not yet attended same, are requested to send them along.

A large and varied assortment of revolutionary literature is now in stock, and all party members are requested to take a hand of disposing of same in their respective unions.

I may also say that several comrades have been engaged in the above work for some months, with considerable success, but more workers are wanted in this connection.

J. R. WILSON,
Secretary.

Brisbane Branch.

The Brisbane branch is still endeavouring to awaken the workers to a consciousness of their position in society. Last Thursday, at the usual business meeting we arranged to celebrate May Day. We have asked the other Socialist organisations here to co-operate with us. The Russian Club are joining in with us, and on May 1st we have a social evening in our rooms, and May 3rd a concert and dance. It was too awfully wet for anything last Saturday, and open-air meetings was impossible. On Sunday we dealt with the Federal Government policy as outlined in Andy Fisher's speech at Maryborough on March 31st last. Comrade Anderson undertook the criticism, and by the time he had finished the most case-hardened Laborite must have realised that from a working class view point there was very little to be admired. Comrade Anderson ventured to predict that the party at present known as the Labor party, will very soon change its name to the Nationalist party, and if Fisher's speech points to anything at all it certainly points this way.

However, the subject was too lengthy to be completed in one night, and so we adjourned discussion until next Sunday evening. The Sunday school is getting along well. We are pleased to hear of the formation of the Rockhampton branch. Both Comrades Rees and Jackson are members of our branch. More power to their elbow, may they carry the message of revolt further and further afield until the workers from one end of Australia to the other understand the antagonism of interests of the workers and capitalist class. When that is accomplished, then we shall not be long. Yours for revolt,

W. E. SAMPSON,
Secretary.

Perth Branch.

The branch has now a headquarters in Smith's Chambers, Barrack Street. Furniture has been procured, and the new room will be officially opened by Comrade Miller on Saturday night. The country Socialist will now know where to find the Socialist comrades when they visit Perth. Open-air meetings are well attended. On Good Friday night Comrades Parkinson (chair), O'Shannassy, and Wilkes,

had a very good hearing, while on Sunday afternoon, on the Esplanade, Comrade Miller, Wilkes, Devlin, and Martin had a very large audience. Literature sold well.

An enclosing a photo of a typical Socialist meeting on the Esplanade. Comrade Martin is on the stump. On the front of the stump is a poster, advertising the "International Socialist." The words (indicating an article which appeared in that paper) entitled, "A Modern Cause," may see, read even in the photo.

M.O.S.

Rockhampton Branch.

On Tuesday evening, March 25th, a branch of the A.S.P. was formed here in the city of the three S's. It was formed by a number of class conscious wage slaves. Another nail has been driven in capitalism's coffin. Another cheer to the revolutionary movement. It shows that another number of workers have realised that the fight has passed the stage of defence against capitalism to the period in which the wage slaves have got to attack capitalism.

On the Saturday following an open-air meeting was held. We had a large attendance, and the sales of literature was encouraging. The speakers were Comrade W. Jackson, who spoke on Industrial Organisation, and then the writer followed.

A.L.F. REES,
Sec. pro. tem.

INCURABLE DISEASE.

Amongst the many painful experiences that, from time to time, one has to endure there are none more heartbreaking than visiting a relative comrade who is condemned to death in an incurable hospital where one sees the failure of capitalist government to encourage scientific research to attempt to check and cure the ravages of the terrible diseases which are to be found therein.

The cancer ward in the Austin Hospital, Heidelberg, Victoria, is amongst one of the worst examples. In this ward of the above hospital, we find many beds, with not the slightest pretence of protecting the patients from the cold draughts at night, and the pestilent flies on the hot summer days, with the result that maggots are often picked out of the wounds of suffering patients. In this dismal den we find our old comrade, Bob Leech, who, a year ago, was a most striking figure, both physically and mentally in the Victoria Socialist movement. Over six feet in height, beautifully developed, full of manly health and energy, and with his heart full of love and enthusiasm for the ideal of Socialism.

For months he fought against his terrible complaint with the hope of once more taking his place in the fight for freedom, but now, with his face and neck mutilated by the cancer germ, he is confined to his bed calmly awaiting death. Still the brave and honest agnostic, when he gazes upon the walls and finds such scriptural texts as "the lord hath been mindful of us," he talks to the nurse of the horrible shame and hypocrisy of the whole capitalist system which will not give to the world some of its superfluous wealth to encourage the greatest medical scientists in their research to find a remedy to combat this terrible disease.

In conclusion, the writer hopes that such frightful sights and foul smelling and hellish surroundings which are characteristic of all such institutions, may spur on with a determination to fight for the abolition of the present social order that creates brutish institutions, which are a blot and a disgrace on our so-called civilisation.

DAN O'SHEA.

Writing from Germany to a comrade in Sydney Comrade Gaun desires to be remembered to all comrades here. He is thinking of leaving for Paris to work there, but intends to be at the next International Socialist Congress.

Police Persecution.

N.S.W. Labor Minister for Justice has quashed the convictions and remitted the fines imposed upon T. Glynn and A. Budd. The Minister said that if the City Council authorities would take the responsibility of prosecuting all street speakers alike he would not interfere, but when one body is singled out for prosecution he would have no hesitation in remitting any fines imposed.

The Lord Mayor replied in a letter to the press, the burden of which was that the religious meetings were small and created no obstruction, and dispersed quietly when finished. The Socialist speakers drew large crowds together, which divided into groups

that argued the question for hours after the meeting closed.

The Lord Mayor seems to be determined to prosecute only those who are interesting. The Balmain Aldermen copied the Lord Mayor's example recently and prosecuted eight I.W.W. speakers, who were fined 30s. each with the alternative of 14 days. The fines are still unpaid.

That repugnance which many people, even in good faith, show towards Socialism, is it not the manifestation of another law of human evolution which Herbert Spencer has formulated thus: "Every progress expected is an obstacle to further progress?"

That is, in fact, a natural psychological tendency, a tendency analogous to fetishism, to refuse to consider the ideal attained, the progress effected as a simple instrument, a starting-point for further progress and for the attainment of new ideals, instead of contentedly halting to adore as a fetish, the progress already expected, which men are prone to look upon as being so complete that it leaves no room for new ideals and higher aspirations.—Ferri.

Newtown.

Election Notice.

Socialists and others against compulsory military training are asked to assist by sending along their contributions to our fund to contest Cook Federal electorate.

A. DUFFIELD,
Secretary,
Chalder-St., Marrickville.

Sydney Propaganda Fixtures.

SATURDAY.

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Bathurst-St.: Jones, Slade, Dangar, Condren.
Balmain—C. Moore, Talbot.
Newtown—Duffield, Walsh, Kilburn, Foran.

Press and Maintenance Fund.

Already acknowledged £43 9s 3d. Collected at Club Social 4s 8d. Total £48 13s 1d.

To Correspondents.

Owing to increasing pressure on our space we are compelled to hold over several important articles for future issues.

Contributors writing for publication should write in ink, on one side of the paper only, and with a fair space between words and lines. The paper used for this purpose should not be larger than letter paper, and thin enough to avoid getting unfined for overweight. Mark the package "Press-Matter Only."

Branch Secretaries should send brief fortnightly reports or short comments on current events.

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